CHILE EARTHQUAKE SHORTENS DAYS, PG8

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Celebrity Buzz

Murphy leaves it all to mom

pg 22

Crosby's golden stick, gloves missing: Report

OLYMPICS The stick and gloves Sidney Crosby used to score the gold medal-winning goal at the Vancouver Winter Olympics have gone missing.

Hockey Canada is launching an investigation, according to tsn.ca, which broke the story.

After scoring, Crosby threw his equipment on the ice and one of his gloves ended up in the end zone mesh netting above the glass.

The equipment is believed to have been collected with that of other players and put in a bin in the Team Canada dressing room but it can no longer be found.

Apparently Crosby's mouthguard and helmet also went missing for a while but were eventually returned to him.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

News on the Move

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Travel pg 18

Cancun on the rebound

Entertainment pg 20

Burton in Wonderland

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DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Gordon Campbell, right, applauds Finance Minister Colin Hansen at the B.C. legislature in Victoria yesterday.

Budget unveiled

Highlights include public service job cuts, health spending increases

JEFF HODSON
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B.C. will chop public service jobs by one-tenth over the next three years as the province seeks to trim costs amid consecutive budget deficits, B.C.'s finance minister revealed yesterday.

Budget 2010, unveiled in Victoria yesterday by Finance Minister Colin Hansen, forecasts deficits of $1.7 billion in 2010/11, $945 million in 2011/12 and 145 million in 2012/13, returning to balanced budgets in 2013/14.

The province will cut roughly 3,500 full-time jobs, reducing its public service down to 27,700 in 2012/13, from its current level of 31,300.

"These cuts are relatively deep," said Darryl Walker, president of the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union.

"We're talking better than 10 per cent of the public sector, and we're already the leanest public sector in this country."

In addition to cuts to the public service, B.C. has also implemented a "net zero" bargaining mandate.

In the next nine months, about 180 collective agreements, representing more than 200,000 public sector employees, will expire. The net zero mandate means that future wage-increases must be offset by savings in other parts of the agreement.

Budget 2010

- Total provincial debt will rise to $55.9 billion by 2012/13.
- Medical services plan premiums will increase in 2011 by $3.50 a month to $60.50 for single people and $7 a month for families, to $115 for two-person families and $121 for families of three or more.
- Health services spending will increase by $661 million in 2010/11 and by more than $2 billion over the next three years.
- $22 million in 2012/13 to implement full-day kindergarten.
- $60 million over three years for a 2010 Sports and Arts Legacy to support youth sports and community arts activities.
- $69 million over three years for court services and additional RCMP policing costs.
- Implementation of the harmonized sales tax beginning July 1.

"This is just a joke to try to dress up the HST as a good thing. They're trying to hide and make this thing salvageable when it's not."
Jim Sinclair, president of the B.C. Federation of Labour, on HST money going to health care

"(This is a) stay-the-course type of budget. We didn't really see a lot of big changes. From the stability point of view, I think this is a good budget."
John Pankratz, president of Certified General Accountants of B.C.

"What's particularly concerning in this budget is the tilt away from clean energy ... that's dwarfed by massive subsidies to the oil and gas industry."
George Heyman, executive director of Sierra Club of B.C.

"We used to have specific funding for certain categories of special needs kids. Those are now all rolled into the block (funding)."
Irene Lanzinger, president of the B.C. Teachers Federation

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paralympic flame starts 10-day trek

GAMES The Paralympic flame starts making its 10-day trek to Vancouver today after it's lit at Parliament Hill in Ottawa this morning.

While significantly smaller than the Olympics, the Paralympics are in growth mode. After five decades it has evolved from an off-year adjunct to the Olympics into a fully fledged partner staged in the same host city.

And both events were planned by the same group, said Sir Philip Craven, International Paralympic Committee president.

"They've gone out right from the start with the intention for it to be one organizing committee and two connected Games in a great festival of sport, and I think it is fantastic," he said.

Vancouver will mark the first time the word Paralympic has been in the organizing committee's name, the first time the Olympic and Paralympic flags have flown side by side at city hall and the first Paralympic countdown clock.

Another indicator that the Paralympics' presence is expanding is in the ability to attract sponsors.

Korean electronics giant Samsung signed on last week as a worldwide partner for the Paralympics, joining Visa, tech firm Atos Origin and Otto Bock.

Carla Qualtrough, the head of the Canadian Paralympic Committee, said having former mayor Sam Sullivan, who is a quadriplegic since a skiing accident at 19, as the Paralympic ambassador, has helped make Vancouver the most accessible Games ever.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Growth

- At the Winter Paralympics there are five events and 1,350 disabled athletes compared with 15 events and about 2,600 competitors at the Winter Olympics.
- CTV is committed to 50 hours of coverage.

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Getting back to normal

City streets start to reopen, but some will stay closed for the Paralympics

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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For the most part, Vancouver streets should be back to normal for this morning's commute after many of the arterial roads were closed for nearly a month because of the Olympics.

The Georgia Viaduct has reopened — easing congestion on Pender and Hastings streets — and the Dunsmuir Viaduct will be open tomorrow, said Dale Bracewell, director of Olympic transportation.

The streets around the Convention Centre and Pacific Coliseum have reopened, but the roads immediately around Vancouver's Athletes' Village will remain shut until the Paralympic Games end on March 24.

Terry Fox Way and Abbott Street will also stay closed from Expo to Pacific boulevards throughout much of March, as will Pacific and Expo boulevards between Quebec and Nelson.

"(There's) still some overall road capacity reduction compared to what we normally have, but with the (bridges) and viaducts, there's plenty of capacity for people ... without necessarily using Expo and Pacific," said Bracewell.

Busy Monday

- Dale Bracewell, director of Olympic transportation, said there was more traffic and congestion on Monday than at any other point during the Games, but it was manageable.

"There were lots of Olympic athletes and officials making their way to the airport and there weren't any issues," Bracewell said. "(It) went fairly well."

DAVE SANDFORD/GETTY IMAGES

The Trews perform at the 2007 NHL Awards Show on June 14, 2007, in Toronto. The group has joined the lineup of musicians playing in Whistler during the Paralympics.

Paralympic medal acts named

GREG DOWNS
greg.downs@metronews.ca

PARALYMPICS The Trews are among the various Canadian musicians who'll perform at the nightly victory ceremonies at the Whistler medal plaza during the Winter Paralympics that open Friday.

Serena Ryder

Paralympics organizers announced yesterday that singer Kathleen Edwards is scheduled to play the first victory ceremony on March 13.

Juno-nominated indie rockers the Weakerthans, out of Winnipeg, play on March 14 and French performer Antoine Gratton plays on March 15.

The Trews, a four-time Juno-nominated band based in Toronto, hit the stage March 16, followed by Justin Hines the following day.

Closing out the final victory ceremony is Juno Award-winner and Ontario native Serena Ryder, whose album If Your Memory Serves You Well went gold. She performs on March 18.

Tickets to all victory ceremonies in Whistler are free, but the plaza has a capacity of 5,000 people. The gates will open at 5:30 p.m. each day.

Whistler is hosting alpine and cross-country skiing events as well as the biathlon, with medals presented at the plaza.

Wheelchair curling and ice sledge hockey are being played in Vancouver and will have in-venue medal presentations at UBC Thunderbird arena.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Sailors aboard a navy ship returning from Haiti say devastation will take years to repair at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs Own The Podium may have been a bit of a wash, but SpinDoctor sees plenty for us to be proud of in the Vancouver Games

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Art gallery sets attendance record during Olympics

STIG NIELSEN
for Metro Vancouver

VAG A new attendance record has been set at the Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG) as nearly 100,000 people visited it during the Games.

Lineups snaked around the block as the VAG showcased Leonardo Da Vinci: The Mechanics of Man, marking the first time that all of his drawings of the human body were exhibited together.

"Culture was at the heart of these Olympic Games, and, now more than ever, Vancouver is seen as an international art centre," said VAG director Kathleen Bartels.

Admission to the VAG was free during the Olympics, and will also be free during the Paralympics March 12-21.

News in brief

FUNDRAISERS The sale of Vancouver's Olympic street banners has raised $62,000 to support UNICEF's Haitian relief efforts, the city said yesterday. In all, 3,000 banners, about half the 6,200 that fluttered from lamp-posts during the Games, were donated to UNICEF, which is selling them on its website. They're available in 12 designs and range from $150 to $350.

EMERGENCIES Visits to the emergency room spiked during the Olympics, with Metro Vancouver hospitals seeing hundreds more patients than usual for February, news1130.com reports. VGH alone saw as many emergency patients during the Olympics as it did in November during the peak of the H1N1 pandemic.

CONSERVATORY The Vancouver Park Board has passed a motion that ensures the Bloedel Conservatory won't be torn down. The board is now looking for a grant to make the dome more energy efficient to save money.

WANTED RCMP in North Vancouver are looking for a man driving a rusty white van who followed a 14-year-old girl along Deep Cove Road yesterday afternoon. The teen said the man asked for directions and followed her until she ran home.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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To commemorate China Airlines' 10 years of service from Vancouver to Taipei, we're offering you a chance to win 1 of 10 round-trip tickets to Taiwan. There are many exciting events and activities in Taiwan. These include experiencing the Lantern Festival, enjoying the Taipei International Flora Expo, cycling, and bird watching. Discover why Taiwan is one of Asia's must-see destinations.

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*Contest period: January 12 to March 23, 2010. Round-trip ticket is from Vancouver to Taipei. Travel must be completed between May 1 and December 31, 2010. You are required to answer 2 skill questions. Some restrictions apply. Visit www.flyfree2taiwan.com for details.

Record for Vancouver home prices set in February

Vancouver home prices set a new record last month that beats the previous high set in May 2008 by two per cent. The average home now costs $582,000, according to Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver. The average detached home listed in February 2010 cost $963,000 and the average condo $353,000. METRO VANCOUVER

Megaquake could strike Pacific Northwest

Experts say Vancouver area has 27 per cent chance of hit in next 50 years, California 80 per cent

Just 50 miles off the Pacific Northwest coast is an earthquake hotspot that threatens to unleash on Vancouver, Seattle and Portland the kind of damage that has shattered Chile.

The fault has been dormant for more than 300 years, but when it awakens — tomorrow or decades from now — the consequences could be devastating.

The last one hit in 1700, a magnitude-9 that sent nine-metre to 12-metre tall tsunami waves crashing onto the coast and racing across the Pacific, damaging Japanese coastal villages.

Recent computer simulations of a hypothetical magnitude-9 quake found that shaking could last two to five minutes — strong enough to potentially cause poorly constructed buildings from British Columbia to Northern California to collapse and severely damage highways and bridges.

Such a quake would also send powerful tsunami waves rushing to shore in minutes.

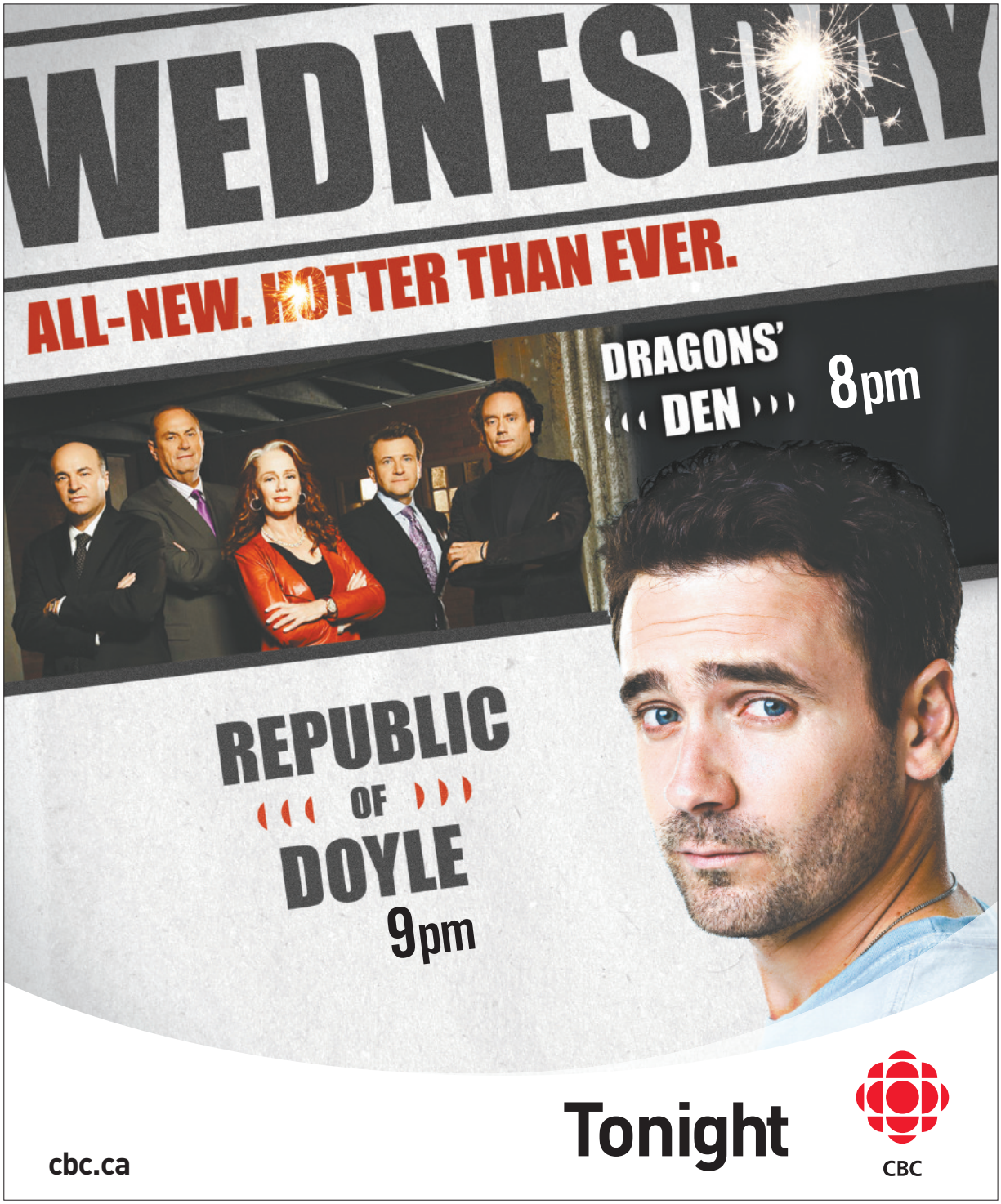
There's an 80 per cent chance the portion of the fault off southern Oregon and northern California would break in the next 50 years and produce a megaquake.

The odds of rupture are lower for the northern end, mainly including Washington state and Vancouver Island, with a 27 per cent chance during the same time period, according to the Active Tectonics and Seafloor Mapping Laboratory at Oregon State University.

The magnitude-8.8 Chile quake occurred in an offshore region that was under increased stress caused by a 1960 magnitude-9.5 quake — the largest recorded in history, according to geologist Jian Lin of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Similar tectonic forces are at play off the Pacific Northwest, where the Juan de Fuca plate is diving beneath North America. At some point, centuries of pent-up stress in the Cascadia subduction zone will cause the plates to slip. Scientists cannot predict exactly when a quake will occur, only that one will happen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



RCMP seek to ID woman who died in Burnaby

COLLAPSE Mounties in Burnaby are trying to identify the body of a young woman who was found collapsed early yesterday morning in the 4000 block of Rumble Street.

Motorists spotted the woman at 12:40 a.m. They called 911 and stopped to help, but she died.

The woman, who is between 20 and 25, is five-feet, eight-inches tall and about 125 pounds. She had long black hair, brown eyes and was dressed in a white, zip-up hoodie with a rose insignia on the front. She was wearing a heart-shaped silver pendant. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

ARREST A 22-year-old woman has been arrested in connection with a violent purse snatching in Chilliwack. The 26-year-old victim was robbed by three women, thrown to the ground and kicked several times. The victim was taken to hospital with serious head injuries.

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Rights and Democracy staff get the boot
Three suspended senior managers at Rights and Democracy were fired yesterday. Marie-France Cloutier, Razmik Panossian and Charles Valler had been suspended with pay since Jan. 29. They — along with the entire staff — wrote a letter stating that they had no confidence in the board of directors and demanded the resignation of three Conservative appointees. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Bison play ecological role: Experts

For many, bison might not be much more than the source of a tasty burger, and the idea of them running wild confined strictly to the past. But scientists from across the continent argue that the massive mammals have a role to play in Canada's future as well. Cormack Gates, a University of Calgary professor, says wild bison could have an important ecological niche. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MP nixed gay rights in guide, docs show

Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney blocked any reference to gay rights in a new study guide for immigrants applying for Canadian citizenship, The Canadian Press has learned.

Internal documents show an early draft of the guide contained sections noting that homosexuality was decriminalized in 1969; that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms forbids discrimination based on sexual orientation; and that same-sex marriage was legalized nationally in 2005.

But Kenney, who fought same-sex marriage when it was debated in Parliament, ordered those key sections removed when his office sent its comments to the department last June.

Senior department officials duly cut out the material — but made a last-ditch plea with Kenney in early August to have it reinstated.

"Recommend the re-insertion of the text boxes related to ... the decriminalization of homosexual sex/recognition of same-sex marriage," says a memorandum to Kenney from deputy minister Neil Yeates.

"Recommend the addition of 'equality rights' under list of rights. Had noted earlier that this bullet should be reinserted into the list as a means of noting the equality of all based on race, gender, sexual orientation etc ..."

In the end, however, Kenney's view trumped that of the bureaucrats. The 63-page guide, released with fanfare last November, contains no mention of gay and lesbian rights.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Egale

- The gay-rights group Egale Canada met with the minister in early December after learning the booklet made no reference to gay and lesbian rights, and is negotiating with the department to have them included in the next printing, about a year away.

m.metronews.ca

Hybrid hype? As more models roll out, experts agree the gas engine will continue to dominate. Scan this code for the story.

Crime bills may flop in Commons

POLITICS The Conservative government may have won control of key committees after it prorogued Parliament, but that won't guarantee control of crime legislation when the House of Commons returns yesterday.

The opposition parties are offering no guarantees that more than a dozen law-and-order bills that died with prorogation will be automatically resuscitated and fast-tracked.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's shutting down of Parliament in late December killed the bills, some of which had already been debated in the Commons.

Ending the parliamentary session early allowed Harper time to appoint more Conservative senators and win control of key Senate committees that had held up his government's crime bills.

Polls have shown that tougher crime legislation is popular with voters, particularly women living in suburban ridings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

COURTS A 19-year-old northern Ontario man who got his 13-year-old cousin pregnant has been handed a nine-month jail sentence in a case the Crown prosecutor called one of the hardest she's dealt with. In an interview from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., Crown lawyer Nancy Komsa called the situation sad.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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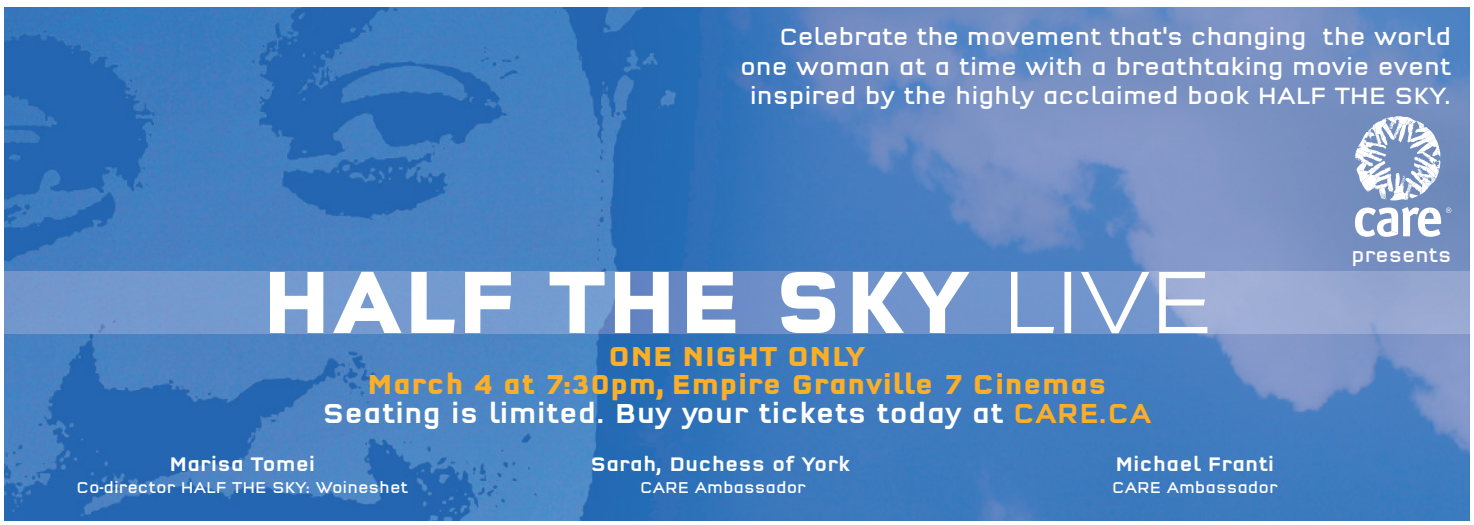
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Political deadlock continues
The return of Parliament today offers a series of confidence votes, but new polling data suggests that neither the Tories nor the Liberals would want to hazard a quick trip to the voting booths. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec facing rights suit in veil controversy

A Muslim student who was kicked out of a Quebec classroom for wearing a religious face-covering has accused the provincial government of trampling on her human rights.

She has filed a complaint with the Quebec Human Rights Commission. But the government is sticking by its guns. A spokesman for the province's immigration minister says the woman could have stayed in the French class had she agreed to remove her niqab for certain exercises.

The woman's teachers say the garment kept her from improving her enunciation.

The school reportedly asked the government to intervene after it spent months accommodating her religious beliefs, including allowing her to give presentations with her back facing the class.

The government move is earning some plaudits, even from moderate Muslim groups.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.B. minister urges feds not to cut equalization in tomorrow's budget

NEW BRUNSWICK New Brunswick's finance minister says it's imperative there be no cuts to equalization in this week's federal budget.

Greg Byrne said equalization and transfers make up about 25 per cent of his budget, so it's critical the funds continue to flow. Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty will table his budget in Ottawa tomorrow.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

HISTORY The federal government plans to hold a commemorative ceremony April 9 to honour Canadians who served in the First World War now that Canada's last-known veteran has died. John Babcock died Feb. 18 at age 109. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police arrest teens for posing as cops

MONTREAL A pair of teenage boys who allegedly passed themselves off as police officers to rob motorists, wound up receiving an unwanted visitor: The real police. The pair of 18-year-olds now face a host of charges, including impersonating a police officer, extortion, dangerous driving, uttering threats and theft. Police say such a brazen crime is rare.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Group challenges L.A. crackdown on pot clinics 7
A lawsuit filed yesterday by the largest medical marijuana advocacy group in the U.S. challenges the Los Angeles' crackdown on medical marijuana dispensaries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Going back in history

One of the most divisive and hotly disputed events in Irish history — the 1641 killings of thousands of Protestant settlers by Catholic natives — is to be examined in forensic detail for the first time, researchers said yesterday.

The scale of the bloodshed left communal scars for centuries. Protestants cited it as their basis for fearing and oppressing the natives, while Catholics insisted the historical record was grossly exaggerated to justify subsequent British repression in Ireland.

Now, scholars from Aberdeen University in Scotland and Trinity College Dublin will analyze and seek patterns in 20,000 pages of statements from 4,000 witnesses.

The 1642-1655 documents, stored in Trinity's historical archives since the 1740s, have been converted over the past two years into digital form. Researchers now plan to dissect the language used and references to assailants, with the goal of separating truth from fiction and facts from artistic license. The lead researcher, Aberdeen language and linguistics expert Barbara Farrell, said the scale of the 1641 slaughter was cited as justification for when the English army of Oliver Cromwell invaded Ireland in the 1650s and killed natives without mercy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paisley retires

- Ian Paisley, the hard-line Northern Ireland evangelist who led Protestants into power-sharing with Catholics, announced yesterday he will retire from the British Parliament after a 40-year career.

Cyber theft ring busted in Spain

SPAIN Authorities have smashed one of the world's biggest networks of virus-infected computers, a data vacuum that stole credit cards and online banking credentials from as many as 12.7 million poisoned PCs.

The "botnet" of infected computers included PCs inside more than half of the Fortune 1,000 companies and more than 40 major banks, according to investigators.

Spanish investigators, working with private computer-security firms, have arrested the three alleged ringleaders of the so-called Mariposa botnet, which appeared in December 2008 and grew into one of the biggest weapons of cybercrime. More arrests are expected soon in other countries.

The arrests are significant because the masterminds behind the biggest botnets aren't often taken down.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chile Aftermath of earthquake

RICARDO MAZALAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A police officer aims his gun at people looting goods from a damaged store in Talcahuano, Chile, yesterday. Saturday's magnitude-8.8 quake killed more than 700 people. Field hospitals and generators are among the list of urgently needed aid that Chile has requested from Canada. Scan this code or visit metronews.ca/world for the story.

ScanLife

News in brief

IRELAND A Roman Catholic diocese at the centre of Ireland's child-abuse scandals appealed yesterday to its parishioners to cover some of its more than $14 million US in bills to victims and lawyers. The Ferns diocese's chief financial officer, Eugene Doyle, said the church had no option but to ask its faithful for help.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Two dead after protest in India
Thousands of Muslims protesting a newspaper article critical of Islam clashed with police in India yesterday, leaving at least two people dead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Days shorter after Chilean earthquake

Earth's days may have gotten a little bit shorter since the massive weekend earthquake in Chile, but don't feel bad if you haven't noticed.

The difference would be only about one-millionth of a second.

Richard Gross, a scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., and colleagues calculated that Saturday's quake shortened the day by 1.26 microseconds. A microsecond is one-millionth of a second.

The length of a day is the time it takes for the planet to complete one rotation — 86,400 seconds, or 24 hours.

An earthquake can make Earth rotate faster by nudging some of its mass closer to the planet's axis, just as ice skaters can speed up their spins by pulling in their arms.

Conversely, a quake can slow the rotation and lengthen the day if it redistributes mass away from that axis, Gross said yesterday.

Gross said the calculated changes in length of the day are permanent. So a bunch of big quakes could add up to make the day shorter, "but these changes are very, very small."

So small, in fact, that scientists can't record them directly. Gross said actual observations of the length of the day are accurate to five-millionths of a second.

His estimate of the effect of the Chile quake is only a quarter of that span.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bride and mom on the same day

OHIO A woman taken to a maternity ward in her wedding dress became a newlywed and a new mom on the same day. Jamie Phillips says she felt contractions while her father walked her down the aisle during her wedding ceremony Saturday in Toledo in northwest Ohio, but she thought it was a false alarm. It wasn't until after her water broke at the reception that she was rushed to a hospital. The baby boy, named Tova, wasn't due until March 7. His mother and her new husband, Mark Phillips, didn't think the baby would come quite so soon when they planned the wedding two weeks earlier. The parents say they wanted to "do the right thing" and get married before the baby's arrival, which is why they cut things so close.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Contraception on rise in Afghanistan

KABUL Some mullahs in Afghanistan are distributing condoms. Others are quoting the Qur'an to encourage longer breaks between births. Health experts say contraception is starting to catch on in a country where one in eight women dies during pregnancy. Afghanistan has one of the world's highest fertility rates, averaging more than six babies per woman despite years of war and a severe lack of medical care. Awareness of, and access to, contraceptives remains low among many couples, with UNICEF estimating 10 per cent of women using some form of birth control. But use of the pill, condoms and injected forms of birth control rose to 27 per cent over eight months in three rural areas — up to half the woman in one area — once the benefits were explained one-on-one by health workers, according to the report published Monday in Bulletin, the World Health Organization's journal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

A new golden age for Canadians

TheWestView

Much is being made of Canada's gold record at the 2010 Olympics: 14 gold, the most ever.

Quite an accomplishment, but we should check the math: The final tally is more like 34,019,726 gold, one for every single Canadian.

Neil Young, who haunted Sunday's closing ceremonies like a ghost from Winnipeg, sang Long May You Run, which was nice, if the wrong Olympic season, but he could have really hit the target with Heart Of Gold, a more evocative — and accurate — celebration of the New Canadian Attitude (trademark registered).

It was born on the streets of Vancouver, as thousands lined up for hours for a chance to buy Olympic gear branded Canada, no matter that it was made in China. The new 'tude burst free on the final day when Team Canada wrote the mother of all happy endings in the gold-medal hockey game.

The Canuck genie is out of the bottle and with any luck it won't look around, come to its senses and crawl back into the bottle with a meek little apology.

Somehow, over the last two weeks, the people took over from the nattering negativists of the media (your friendly columnist included), and stopped the complaining. So what if it rains all the time or it's crowded or the stupid hydraulic arm doesn't work and the Games cost more money than the GDP of Uzbekistan, etc. We rock. Jon Montgomery rocks. Joannie Rochette rocks. Nickelback rocks. Canada rocks.

For me, the New Canadian Attitude came out loud and proud in that ridiculous Michael Bublé-Busby Berkeley production number with the giant inflatable beavers and flying moose that capped the closing ceremonies. What a magnificent combination of hoser humour, uncharacteristic excess, unbridled goodwill and Molson-induced pride. You want Canada? You got it!

Here's the thing. The Games are over and the guests have gone home: How long will the golden grins last? How long before the negativists, who have been lurking patiently in the dark shadows, re-emerge, fingers wagging, hands wringing, scolding us to remember all the things that pull us apart?

This coming of age thing is interesting, especially how it goes down elsewhere. The British media are furiously trying to stuff us back into the bottle, complaining about an unseemly display of national jingoism from a country that once knew its place. Our American cousins, however, are extending a hand across the border: Welcome to the world, kid. You're looking good.

And now, as goalie Roberto Luongo said at the end of the greatest game ever: "It doesn't matter what they say. I've got the gold around my neck. They can't take that away from me."

Or me. Or you.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: On a scale of one to 10, how would you rate the Vancouver Olympics?

Sulhee Kim
Vancouver
A: Nine. (Vancouver) is a very quiet city, but during the Olympics people had patience and lots of enthusiasm, so many people in the streets high-fiving.

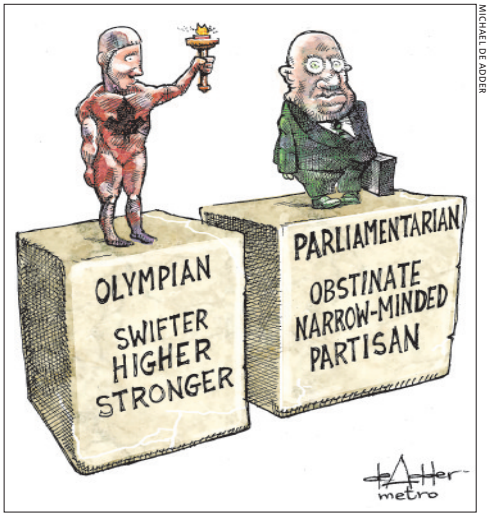
Nick Haltigin
Vancouver
A: Nine. Aside from the problems, I think what it did for the city was amazing. The mood in the city is like nothing I've ever seen before.

Sarah Winsor
Vancouver
A: Nine, because there is always room for improvement, but it was still really good. I had a lot of good experiences.

Paul Chao
Toronto
A: The Vancouver Olympics is definitely an easy 10. There's only been a handful of times where an event has united a country like the 2010 Olympics did.

Sarah Eyland
Halifax
A: Eight. It's really good exposure for Canada, but economically it's a little bit iffy. There was too much money spent on it, especially when you consider the homelessness that's in Vancouver.

Traci Bednard
Edmonton
A: I thought it was a 10 and for me it got better as it went along ... It exceeded my expectations for what I thought the Olympics would be.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Canadian literacy organization changes name
After two decades in existence, a name change and a new strategic plan marked the beginning of another era yesterday for the ABC Canada Literacy Foundation. Henceforth, it will be known as ABC Life Literacy Canada, the non-profit organization announced. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Interest rates to stay for now

The Bank of Canada is keeping interest rates at historic lows for a few more months, while sending out signals that the economy is rebounding strongly and could trigger inflationary pressures.

The central bank's more positive take on the economy followed a Statistics Canada report Monday of a surprising five per cent growth spurt in the fourth quarter of 2009 and sent a strong loonie even higher.

"The level of economic activity in Canada has been slightly higher than the bank had projected in January," the bank said yesterday morning before markets opened.

"The economy grew at an annual rate of five per cent in the fourth quarter of 2009, spurred by vigorous domestic spending and further recovery in exports."

"Slightly higher" may be an understatement, as the bank had projected growth of only 3.3 per cent for the last three months of 2009.

The bank also noted that "core inflation" has been slightly firmer than projected, although it added that some of the price increases were due to transitory factors.

The governing council continued to reiterate that despite the improved conditions, they would likely leave the overnight rate where it has been since last spring — at 0.25 per cent — until at least July.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE
Tech irony? Former regulatory target Microsoft pressures Google for "unfair practices." Scan this code for the story.

Business in brief

ADVERTISING Paris Hilton is too hot for Brazil. A sultry beer ad featuring the socialite has been pulled after consumer complaints and a watchdog agency's investigation. The television and Internet ad featured Hilton in a short black dress preening and rubbing a can of Devassa beer on herself.

STAGNANT The number of women in board positions in Canada has remained stagnant for several years, with the greatest dearth reported at public companies, according to a new study. The study, Catalyst Census: Financial Post 500 Women Board Directors, shows that last year only 14 per cent of board positions in Canada were held by women, up one per cent since 2007.

TOYOTA Toyota Canada's February sales were up more than 25 per cent from a year earlier, suggesting a massive worldwide recall had not significantly affected the brand's popularity in this country.

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Pens swing deal for Ponikarovsky

The Toronto Maple Leafs have traded Alexei Ponikarovsky to the Pittsburgh Penguins in exchange for prospect Luca Caputi and defenceman Martin Skoula. Ponikarovsky, 29, has 19 goals and 22 assists in 61 games for the Leafs this season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

LeBron giving up No. 23

LeBron James, left, is making good on his promise. James has filed paperwork with the NBA to change his uniform number next season to No. 6 from No. 23, the league confirmed yesterday. James said earlier this season he would be willing to give up No. 23 in an effort to have the league retire it in honour of Michael Jordan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Vancouver 4 Columbus 3 (OT)
Carolina 5 Toronto 1
Montreal 4 Boston 1
Nashville 4 Edmonton 3
N.Y. Rangers 4 Ottawa 1
Atlanta 4 Florida 2
N.Y. Islanders 5 Chicago 3
Pittsburgh 3 Buffalo 2
Philadelphia 7 Tampa Bay 2
Los Angeles 5 Dallas 1
St. Louis 5 Phoenix 2
New Jersey at San Jose

TODAY'S GAMES

Washington at Buffalo, 4 p.m.
Philadelphia at Florida, 4:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Calgary, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

TOMORROW'S GAMES

Toronto at Boston, 4 p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 4 p.m.
Ottawa at Carolina, 4 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Atlanta, 4 p.m.
Los Angeles at Nashville, 5 p.m.
St. Louis at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Colorado at Phoenix, 6 p.m.
Montreal at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Houston, 6:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Denver, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Portland, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, 8:30 p.m.

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 105 Detroit 100
Miami 110 Golden State 106
Oklahoma City 113 Sacramento 107
Indiana 99 at L.A. Lakers 122

TODAY'S GAMES

Philadelphia at Atlanta, 5 p.m.
Golden State at Orlando, 5 p.m.
Charlotte at Boston, 5:30 p.m.
Cleveland at New Jersey, 5:30 p.m.
Detroit at New York, 5:30 p.m.
Washington at Milwaukee, 6 p.m.
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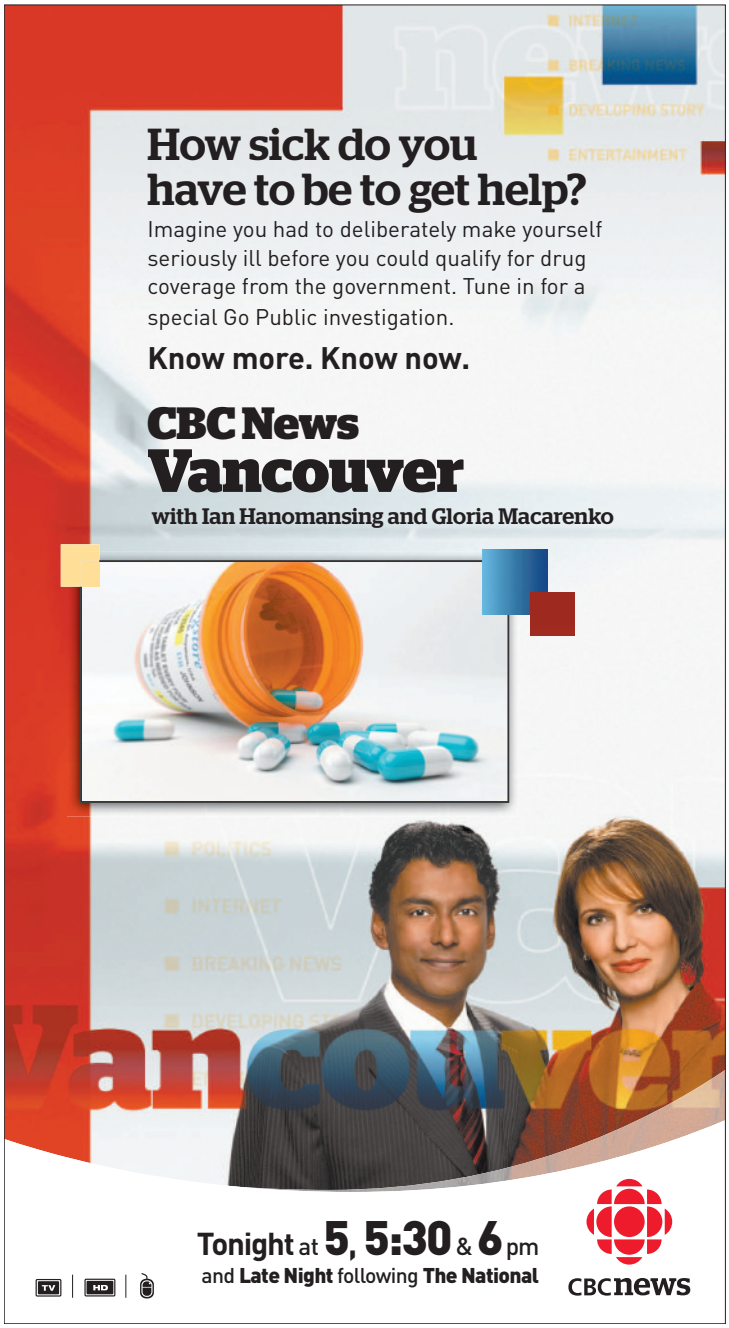
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Canucks rally back

NHL RESULTS

Canucks 4 Blue Jackets 3 (OT)

VS

Even with gold-medal winning goaltender Roberto Luongo taking the night off, the Vancouver Canucks had enough firepower to rally from behind twice.

Vancouver defenceman Christian Ehrhoff scored 1:33 into overtime to lift the Canucks past the Columbus Blue Jackets 4-3 last night.

U.S. Olympic team member Ryan Kessler missed the net wide right but the puck caromed off the end boards to Ehrhoff, who snapped home a shot at the other side of the goal for his 12th.

"I just went with the guys and joined the play," said Ehrhoff, a German Olympian. "It kind of took a good bounce for me, and I just put it on net and the goalie wasn't there."

Kyle Wellwood scored the tying goal, his eighth, with 5:19 left in regulation, converting a pass from Mason Raymond into a wide open net after a horrible giveaway by defenceman Grant Clitsome near the Columbus goal.

"We find a way to get it done in the third in a league that's very tough to come back," Vancouver coach Alain Vigneault said of his club that's now 8-15-1 when trailing after two periods.

Alexandre Burrows also had a goal and assist, and Pavol Demitra found the net for Vancouver, who fell behind 2-0 after one period.

Andrew Raycroft finished with 27 saves filling in for Luongo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAY LAPRETE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vancouver's Christian Ehrhoff, left, and Ryan Kesler celebrate Ehroff's goal against the Blue Jackets during overtime in last night's game in Columbus, Ohio. The Canucks won 4-3.

Olympic performances bode well

TheHockeyNews

Rory Boylen

rboylen@thehockeynews.com

Vancouver Canucks fans have to be pretty happy as the stretch drive to the playoffs begins, given how their Olympic representatives fared in the two-week tournament.

On the gold medal-winning Canadian team, Roberto Luongo had the reins passed down to him. Much like a 29-year-old Martin Brodeur had the torch passed to him in 2002 after Curtis Joseph faltered against Sweden, 30-year-old Luongo took the opportunity afforded him after a Brodeur loss against the USA and carried the torch high. In five games, Bobby Lou had five wins, a shutout, a .927 SV% and 1.76 GAA. His positioning was impeccable and even though he was pointed out as fighting the puck sometimes, Luongo made the saves he had to make to give his team the wins and now no one can say he isn't a proven winner anymore.

On Team USA, Ryan Kesler only scored two goals, but he was a serious two-way force and a leader on the young squad. Kesler averaged 17:31 of ice time in the Games, tied for second among USA forwards with Patrick Kane and four seconds off Jamie Langenbrunner's pace.

The defending Olympic champions from Sweden were disappointing in a quater-final loss to Slovakia and the Sedin twins, used to being offensive catalysts in Vancouver, were relegated to the second unit, seeing their ice time cut drastically from their NHL levels. That may have contributed to their lower than normal production, but the two still combined for five points and a plus-five rating in four games.

But perhaps the most impressive and comforting performance from a Canuck fan's standpoint was the play of Pavol Demitra. Injured for all but 11 games in the NHL this season, the 35-year-old had only managed four points heading into the Olympics. However, three of them came in his last two games before the break and then once the tournament began, Demitra took off.

Not only was the entire Slovakian team surprising in their fourth-place showing, but Demitra's 10 points in seven games led the tournament.

Can these guys continue their performances that ranged from consistent to explosive? Only the last 21 games on the schedule can answer that, but things are setting up pretty nicely for the Canucks.

The Hockey News
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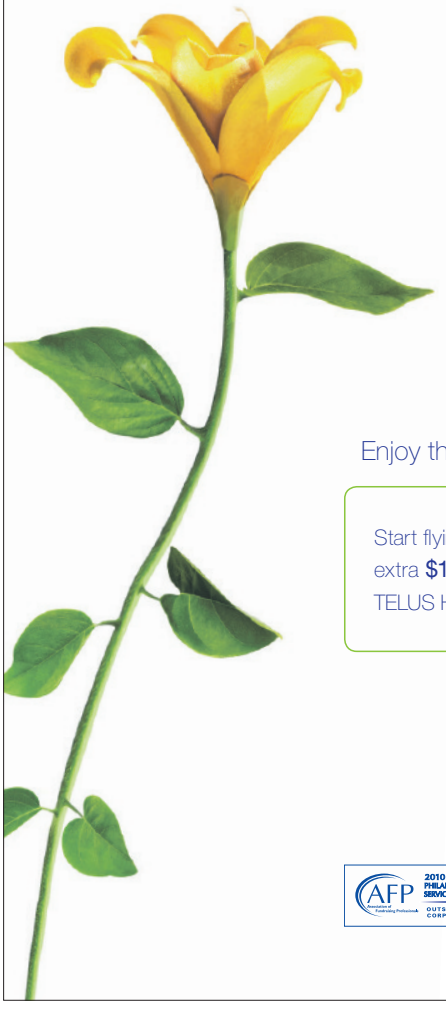

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Pro Bowl will take place before Super Bowl next year

The Pro Bowl will be played before the Super Bowl when it returns to Honolulu next year. The Hawaii Tourism Authority and the NFL announced yesterday that the game will be played at Aloha Stadium Jan. 30, the Sunday before the Super Bowl. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woods preparing for return to golf: Source

Tiger Woods is closer to competing again.

Woods is back home after a week of family counselling in Arizona and is trying to get back into a routine that includes fitness and his first significant practice in 15 weeks, a person with knowledge of his schedule said yesterday.

Woods returned to his home near Orlando Saturday and has been hitting balls on the range at Isleworth, not far from where he ran his SUV into a fire hydrant and a tree in a middle-of-the-night accident Nov. 27 that set off shocking revelations of infidelity.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because only Woods is authorized to release such information, said golf's No. 1 player still has not decided when he will return to competition.

Woods was photographed hitting balls at Isleworth Feb. 18, the day before he ended nearly three months of silence by speaking to a small group of associates at the TPC Sawgrass in a 13-minute statement that was televised around the world. Those photos of Woods were arranged to counter the paparazzi trying to follow his every move since Thanksgiving.

Woods has not practised in earnest since winning the Australian Masters in Melbourne Nov. 15 for his 82nd victory worldwide.

"I do plan to return to golf one day, I just don't know when that day will be," Woods said in his statement at Sawgrass. "I don't rule out that it will be this year."

Woods said he had attended inpatient therapy "for the issues I'm facing" for 45 days, from the end of December to early February. He said he was leaving the next day for more therapy, without saying what kind.

The person who spoke to The Associated Press said he went to Arizona for a week of family and marriage counselling with his wife, Elin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVE MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

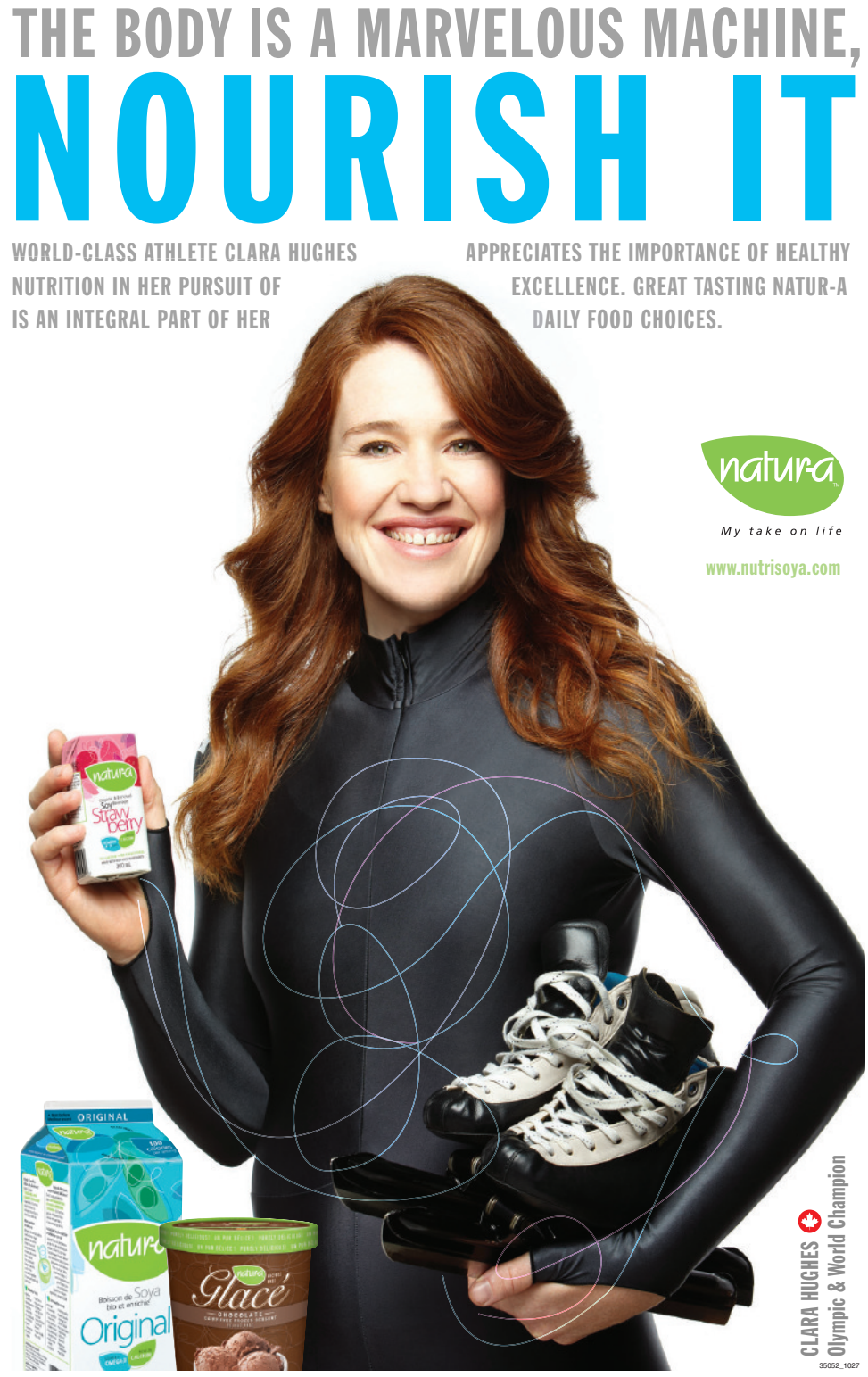
Tiger Woods, seen here in a 2009 file photo, has resumed practising golf, a source says.

Sports in brief

NHL Ray Emery's second chance in the NHL ended prematurely. The Philadelphia Flyers goalie needs surgery to repair his right hip and will miss the rest of the season.

BASEBALL A person familiar with the negotiations tells The Associated Press that the Arizona Diamondbacks and young all-star outfielder Justin Upton are closing in on a six-year contract. The deal would be worth just more than $50 million US, the person said yesterday, speaking on condition of anonymity because the contract has not been finalized.

METRO NEWS SERVICES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3. Shawn Tschritter	A, CA	882	364	524	888
4. Stephanie Warren	N, CA	864	369	516	885
5. Christian Gagnon	N, CA	839	355	524	879
6. Kyle Turk	N, CA	890	370	503	873
7. Dennis MacDougall	N, CA	860	360	511	871
8. Cole Warren	N, CA	872	330	536	866
9. Bernie Horton	O, CA	826	359	505	864
10. Joanne Doiron	N, CA	832	349	513	862
11. Blaine Schlechter	A, CA	852	350	509	859
12. Jordan Camponi	A, CA	838	336	521	857
13. Jean-Paul Osborne	Q, CA	877	350	505	855
14. Grant Greenfield	A, CA	849	380	474	854
15. Darrick Bowden	N, CA	848	338	513	851

* Results exclude Quebec

markerzone.com metro

More than $20 million for uWaterloo-led research projects
The Ontario government announced last Friday more than $20.8 million in grants from the Ontario Research Fund for six University of Waterloo-led research projects, which involve electrical and computer engineering and mechanical and mechatronics engineering. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Retired prof donates $12M to uSask

Last Friday, University of Saskatchewan professor emeritus Karim (Kay) Nasser announced a $12-million donation in the form of real estate to the university, making it the largest gift uSask has ever received. The value of the donation will be channelled into student awards, two new campus buildings, the college of engineering, and the business school, which is moving to downtown Saskatoon with the help of a previous donation. METRO NEWS SERVICES

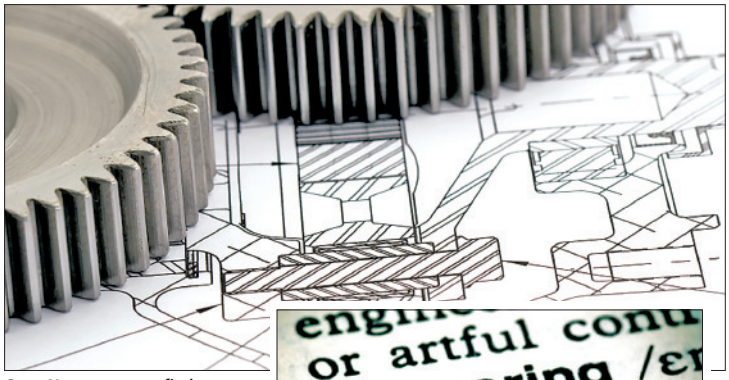
EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

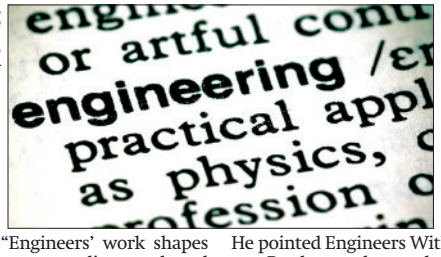
Great potential in engineering careers

Engineering **the Future**

Metro Workology is focusing on careers and education in the engineering sector for the month of March to celebrate National Engineering Month. Check back every Wednesday.

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada





Go to Nem-mng.ca to find out about National Engineering Month in your region.

National Engineering Month is focusing on youth this March, exploring how the children of today will "design the future" of tomorrow.

"Engineering is a draw for young people simply due to the fact that there are so many things that one can do and achieve as an engineer," NEM's chief executive officer Chantal Guay said in an email interview. "Young people are generally enthusiastic and full of life, having a desire to contribute and make a difference in the world."

Events across Canada will target kids aged eight to 14, showing them how modern engineering offers careers in software, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, agriculture and forestry. Guay said good grades in high school math and science are important, but engineering also requires creativity, imagination and communication skills.

"Not only are engineers contributing to the well-being of society and the public's quality of life, we are part of the solution to the challenges facing the country," Guay added. "Our work goes a long way to ensure that, for instance, the public is provided with sustainable infrastructure and has the adequate technologies and the means to adapt to climate change."

Engineers can also swing into action to provide much-needed help when disasters strike, such as the January earthquake in Haiti, or the more recent earthquake in Chile.

"Engineers' work shapes the way we live, work and play, and students can see what they can do in the exciting world of engineering by participating in National Engineering Month activities," Guay said.

Bruce Dunwoody, associate dean for engineering programs at the University of British Columbia, said young people drawn to engineering are strong in math and science and want to physically do something that makes a difference.

"They feel that through engineering they can have an impact on the world and help other people," he said. He pointed Engineers Without Borders and a student who spent his summer in Africa teaching villagers how to maintain earthen dams. Others have developed and install a "multi-functional platform," a diesel engine that can work as a water pump or flour grinder in poorer villages.

"We see students who are keen on the environmental side, but we also see students who are drawn to mechanical engineering — the ships and planes and cars," Dunwoody said. "There's a lot of potential, a lot of flexibility and a lot of challenges in the job."

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Targeting traffic

BMW has announced a new research initiative to build personalized travel routes for commuters to avoid traffic gridlock. The company announced the initiative at a "smart transportation" event in Washington. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Metro Drive

2010's best of the best

Consumer Reports has named its Top Picks for 2010, the best all-around models in their categories based on performance, reliability and safety. The Lexus LS 460L won best car overall category. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

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BMW will deliver a high-performance version — dubbed 335is — of its 3 Series later this year.

Bimmer's power of 3

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada

BMW is launching a higher performance version of the 2011 335i Coupe and Convertible, dubbed the 335is, in Canada and the US only. Huh? Usually the Europeans get all the fun stuff, so what's up?

Apparently North Americans buy a much higher percentage of hi-performance 3 Series (335i and M3) than Europeans, and since many here have their cars modified, a factory tuner version of the 335i was a viable consideration.

The current BMW 3 Series, which was launched as a 2006 model, sees a refresh for 2011, getting a new hood and fascia, recontoured grill, headlights with LED "corona rings" and eyebrows, reshaped side sills and LED taillights. You'll know the hotter 335is model by its black kidney grills, aggressive M Sport fascia, side skirts, high-gloss black mirrors and 5-spoke ferric grey 18" alloys.

Although you'll probably hear it coming first. The sport exhaust system broadcasts a deliciously fruity burble that escalates to a feral wail as the tach needle swings to the 7000 rpm redline.

Power is up 20 horses to 320 and torque jumps from 300 to 332 lb.-ft., available from 1500 to 5000 r.p.m. There is an additional seven second overboost of 370 lb.-ft. should your Reebok hit the firewall.

A few hours of track time at the famed Estoril racetrack in Portugal proved the 335is Coupe to be exceptionally well balanced, communicative and very swift.

Where this power comes from makes for an interesting and slightly convoluted tale.

All 2011 335i models, save this "is" version, will get BMW's new 3.0L single twin-scroll turbocharged 300 hp straight-six with the trick throttle-less Valvetronic induction system. Because the "old" twin-turbo 3.0L engine (which makes exactly the same horsepower and torque) was more tune-able according to BMW, it continues its tour of duty here with enhanced mojo — mostly achieved via an increase in boost pressure.

A six-speed manual transmission is standard in the 335is — optional will be the excellent seven-speed twin-clutch DCT gearbox with steering wheel mounted shift paddles from the M3, without the M's multiple shift settings.

Take one of the most poetic handling rear-drive cars on the road, add a bit more power, lots more torque, a sports suspension, stiffer engine mounts, snug sport seats, functional rear diffuser, an M Sport steering wheel, and you arrive at a particularly special vehicle that expands on the 335i's considerable talents.

It is aimed at those who want more than a garden-variety 335i but can't make the financial or psychological leap to a 414 hp V8-powered M3.

We'll see the 335is Convertible first in early spring, followed by the Coupe a couple of months later. No Canadian pricing has been announced.

2011 BMW 335is

Type: Sports coupe/convertible
Price: Not available
Engine: 3.0L single twin turbo

Highlights

- More powerful that regular 3 Series i models
- Aggressive, stylish looks

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Olympic champion Vonn gets honoured

Vail Resorts and the entire Vail community offer their heartfelt congratulations to hometown hero and decorated Champion, Lindsey Vonn. In recognition of her many achievements, Vail Resorts is renaming a trail on Vail Mountain after Vonn. vailresorts.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Bring your horse on vacation

Pet Friendly Places to Stay is a guide for pet owners who wish to take their pets on holiday with them. It includes over 1,200 establishments from AA inspected hotels and B&Bs, country-house hotels and seaside accommodation, and campsites that accept dogs, cats and horses so you can book your stay with confidence. It includes all the updated vacation options from past editions with many new great finds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Cancun re-claims spring break crown

Lower priced all-inclusive options driving 2010 recovery for gutted Mexican tourism industry

Mexico's spring break king — Cancun — is rebounding quickly from last year's triple blow to its tourism industry caused by the country's swine flu epidemic, drug violence and a global economic crisis.

Those worries couldn't compete this year against Mexico's cheap airfare from the United States and Canada and phenomenal package deals that include popular all-you-can-drink enticements.

February saw 85 per cent of its 28,000 rooms filled, a sign of Cancun's speedy recovery from 2009, when one million fewer visitors came than in a typical year. The relatively high occupancy seen in February is expected to go even higher in March when more universities are on spring break. "We're back to normal levels after having seen tourism practically paralyzed last year," said Quintana Roo state assistant tourism secretary Dario Flota.

At the sprawling, palm-tree packed Oasis Hotel, a popular spot with spring breakers, visitors from the U.S. Midwest and Canada looking to shake the chill from a usually brutal winter dotted the beach where some took photos with monkeys while others danced to music pumped out from gigantic speakers.

Emma Duranti, a 20-year-old science major at Queens University in Kingston, Ont., decided to come to Cancun after comparing it to Jamaica and finding a better deal.

Duranti said she paid $1,040 for a seven-day, all-inclusive trip.

"I was expecting a good party but it went above and beyond," said Duranti while sunbathing with two other friends on the beach of the Oasis Hotel.

"There is always a party on the beach and you can party all day and party all night."

Tourism officials say they expect about 25,000 spring breakers to descend this season on Cancun's newly rebuilt beaches and turquoise blue ocean, compared to the 20,000 spring breakers who visited last year.

That's in addition to tourists of all ages who visit throughout the year. And not only is Cancun drawing them back but destinations across the country are seeing tourists return, despite a U.S. travel alert warning Americans to stay away from some parts, mostly in the northern border states, because of drug violence.

Lonely Planet's U.S. staff's top 10 list for 2010 put Mexico as the No. 4 destination for the new year, declaring that "H1N1 is so 2009" and that Mexico is "still a good bargain, easy to get to for most Americans" — giving a much-needed endorsement for Mexico's third largest source of foreign income. Tourism all but came to a halt in April 2009 when fear over the swine flu epidemic virtually paralyzed Mexico, forcing the closure of schools, restaurants and archaeological sites and restricted air travel to Mexico from some countries. Mexico's revenue from foreign tourism dropped 15 per cent to $11.3 billion from $13.3 billion in 2008, according to the Tourism Department. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ISRAEL LEAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cancun is rebounding quickly from last year's triple blow to its tourism industry caused by the country's swine flu epidemic, drug violence and a global economic crisis.

ISRAEL LEAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tourism experts expect 25,000 students from across North America to descend on Cancun this spring.

Tourists returning to Mexico

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Visiting Jamaica's heart

If you're among the hordes of snow-weary Canadians flocking to all-inclusive resorts in the Caribbean, it's easy to spend your week or two in the sun without seeing much of the country you're in.

SAM SKEKAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Resort life is only one aspect of visiting a country.

You're surrounded by other tourists basking on well-groomed beaches and eating food often modelled on dishes you could have back home. Even those who venture away from the resort usually opt for guided tours. Still surrounded by fellow travellers, you get shown mountains or waterfalls, far removed from the daily routine of the locals.

But there is an alternative. Set up in 1968, the Meet The People program, run by the Jamaica Tourist Board, matches visitors with local residents who have similar interests for a low-key look at real island life.

When my wife and I signed up during a trip to Montego Bay this winter, we were paired with Erica, a middle-aged small-business owner, who picked us up in her mini-van and took us to her granddaughter's school.

Like the 300 other Jamaicans who take part in the program, Erica is a volunteer and is not paid for her time.

With no other tourists in sight, we were quickly immersed in the morning routine of life in Jamaica.

Granted, Meet The People is showing us a nicer part of Jamaican life. But Erica didn't shy away from talking about the problems her country faced and took us to rougher areas to show us. Later, when we returned to our gated resort and rejoined the hundreds of tourists from Canada enjoying cocktails and a buffet by the private beach. It's a nice resort with all the comforts of home, but it felt as if we had left Jamaica behind.

See life away from resorts

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Travel in brief

EARTH HOUR For the third consecutive year, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts will participate in Earth Hour, to raise awareness about climate change. On Mar. 27 at 8:30 p.m., all 60 of Fairmont's hotels will go dark for one hour.

BEER Cheapflights.ca has released a Canadian Beer Lover's Airport Guide. Cheapflights is serving up the latest information on where to kick back with a local beer and forget the stresses of travelling.

DEAL The Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort is offering Canadians a warm-weather getaway packed with special savings and upgrades with its Book Now – Save Big Package. It offers guests up to 40 per cent off room rates and upgrades. (sheratonnassau.com)

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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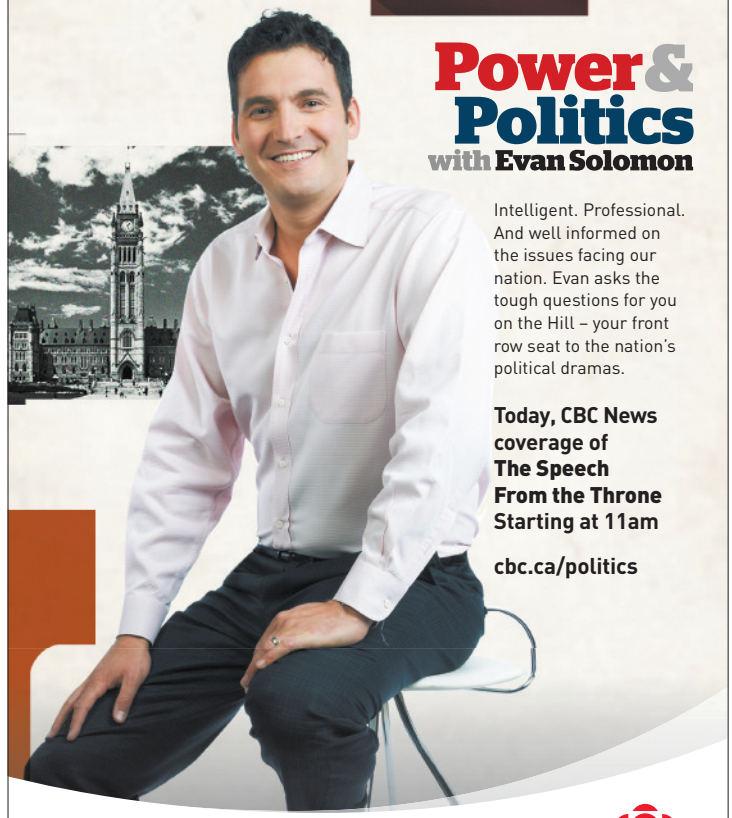
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Hoffman tries his luck

Oscar winner Dustin Hoffman will star in David Milch's upcoming HBO series, Luck, according to Variety. Hoffman will play a highly intelligent man who's just been released from four years in prison and loves to gamble on horse racing. EW.COM

Entertainment

Jump Street

Johnny Depp — who became a reluctant 1980s teen idol thanks to his role on 21 Jump Street — said he is interested in the idea of possibly making a cameo appearance in the planned Jump Street movie. EW.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Polley pulls name from new film

FILM Canadian director Sarah Polley is pulling her name from a short film she made that is set to air during the Academy Awards broadcast this weekend.

The Toronto-based filmmaker says The Heart was crafted to promote the Heart and Stroke Foundation. But she says in a release that she's learned her work will also promote a product when it the airs during one of the award show's commercial breaks.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation's healthy living campaign, dubbed Heart Truth, is sponsored by Becel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Burton in Wonderland

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

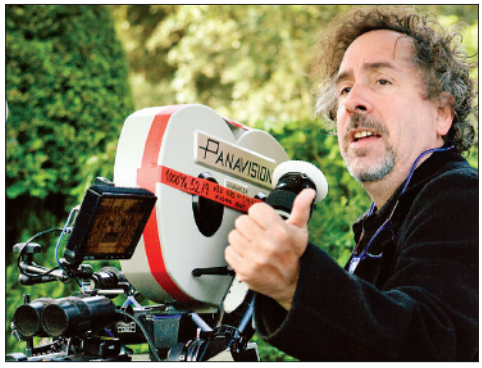
Twenty-five years after his first feature film (Pee-wee's Big Adventure) director Tim Burton has continued to defy categorization, delving into animation, comic books, musicals and ghost stories.

But one thing has remained constant: his focus on outsiders, from Pee-wee to Sweeney Todd to Batman to Beetlejuice. And in Disney's big-budget, 3-D Alice in Wonderland, Burton takes on one of literature's ultimate outsiders. Burton sat down with Metro to talk about growing pains and going 3-D.

Q What made you want to take on Alice in Wonderland?

A All the other film versions always suffered from a similar problem: They were always very cold and about this precocious brat and a bunch of weird characters, and it always felt very distancing. And yet there's something about those characters that just stays in your subconscious. You look at Tom Petty videos and Jefferson Airplane and all these illustrators. It keeps coming up in other people's work.

Q What was the thinking behind the idea of making Alice older?



Director Tim Burton's 3-D Alice in Wonderland open on Friday.

A The idea was setting her at this time in life when you just don't feel right. You feel awkward. You don't feel like a child, you don't feel like an adult. It just felt really right from a psychological point of view.

Q What brought about the decision to make this in 3-D?

A It was presented to me. Disney said what about Alice in Wonderland in 3-D? The combination of the two, that hit me. It's not a gimmick. For me, it's just another element. You could do My Dinner with Andre in 3-D. It doesn't have to be in your face. It can be subtle. The medium is important. I held out for 10 years for Nightmare Before Christmas so it could be stop-motion. I could've done it in cell animation or other things, but that felt right. Ed Wood felt right to shoot in black and white. Because of the trippy nature of Alice and because of the spatial thing and how 3-D draws you into it, it seemed to fit.

Q You keep coming back to work with Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter.

A I don't go out of my way to do that too much. With Johnny, we would never go, "Let's just work together to work together." It's too important to try to do something good to do that. And I'd say the same with Helena. I wouldn't work with her just to work with, because actually it's harder. But you know, when she's right for something you want to give her the benefit of the doubt. And she's good. I enjoy her performance in this.

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Cattrall takes on politics

SATC actress teams up with Polanski for The Ghost Writer

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

While she may be a star of one of those most well-known and successful franchises in TV and film history, Sex and the City star Kim Cattrall was still more than a little starstruck at the prospect of working for director Roman Polanski in his latest film, The Ghost Writer.

"It's unbelievable," she says, speaking to Metro by phone from London, where she's starring in Noel Coward's Private Lives in the West End. "My agent called me and said, 'Roman wants to talk to you.' I was like, 'What? Roman Polanski is going to call me. OK.'"

The stage and screen veteran found the equally celebrated and scandal-prone director charming. "He's incredibly witty and funny," she says.

"He's got a cheeky sense of humour. He's also tough. Sometimes he seems impossible to please. But he's a perfectionist, and perfectionists can drive you insane, but they can also inspire you to work incredibly hard."

Kim Cattrall and Ewan McGregor star in The Ghost Writer.

Cattrall insists she didn't mind Polanski's taskmaster tendencies. "The stakes were high all the time. We would shoot some scenes initially in 40 minutes. If we didn't get it in 40 minutes within five or six takes, we weren't going to get the scene," she remembers. "It literally was like a machine, and he was the leader of it. It felt sometimes like going into battle, and he was our leader."

In The Ghost Writer — in theatres Friday — Cattrall plays Amelia Bly, the inscrutable personal secretary to former British Prime Minister Adam Lang (Pierce Brosnan). To prepare for the part, Cattrall went right to the source.

"I contacted someone in Gordon Brown's administration who'd basically done that," Cattrall says. "She was really helpful in delving into Amelia Bly. This is a woman who really didn't have a personal life. Her life is Lang. She really is the wife. She sets everything in motion."

"(Roman Polanski is) a perfectionist, and perfectionists can drive you insane, but they can also inspire you to work incredibly hard."
Kim Cattrall, actress

And though she enjoys dramatic work such as The Ghost Writer, Cattrall says she's reveling in returning to comedy, both onstage in London and later this year in Sex and the City 2.

"It's great to make people laugh. I did it on Sex and the City, but I didn't ever get to hear the laughter because it's on a DVD or TV, she insists. "But what's great about this show is it's instant. I love being in front of a live audience."

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 3/3/10	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragons' Den Puppy harness.		Republic of Doyle (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	American Idol The top 10 male semifinalists perform. (CC)				CSI: NY "Uncertainty Rules"		CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	P3	Diya (CC)	Third Watch "To Protect ..."		P3	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones Death metal band.		Kitchen Nightmares (N) (CC)		The Deep End "Pilot" (CC)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	TMZ (N) (CC)	Old Christine	The Middle	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "P.C.; Savior" (N) (CC)				A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	Mercy (N) (CC)		Family	Cougar Town	Cougar Town	Family	EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Life Unexpected (CC)		Gossip Girl "The Debarted"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Unmarried	Criminal Minds "Mosley Lane"		CSI: NY "Uncertainty Rules"		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Mercy (N) (CC)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "P.C.; Savior" (N) (CC)				KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Supernanny "Daniels Family"		Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Restaur.	Human Trafficking ★★ (2005) Mira Sorvino.		
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Family	The Middle	Family	Cougar Town	Oprah Winfrey Oscar Special		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	26 KVOS	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl ★★ (2005)				Seinfeld	King	Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	ArtZone	Steves Europe	Faces of America		The National Parks: America's Best Idea (CC) (DVS)				Objects-Mem
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	American Idol The top 10 male semifinalists perform. (CC)				Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	33 PBS	The National Parks: Best Idea		Being Served	Keeping Up	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Faces of America	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	The Office	Name Is Earl	South Park	Half & Half	Paid Program	Street Court	Cold Files
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Life Unexpected (CC)		Gossip Girl "The Debarted"		KTLA 5 News at 10 (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury Paternity test results.	
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show W/Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	29 NW	Geologic Journey (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Geologic Journey (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Saturday Night Poker		UFC: Access	MMA Conn	The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Off the Record	24/7 Jimmie	Planet Speed	World's Strongest Man		SportsCentre
	411	457	43 OLN	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destination Truth (CC)		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters Academy		Ghost Hunters
	410	403	54 SCR	(6:00) Court Surfing		Score Now		Score Now		Score Now		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Pass Time (N)	Pass Time (N)	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	Racing Chef	NASCAR	Dangerous Drives (N)		Pass Time
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol		Football	Gol a Gol	Gol TV News	Foot Brazil	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	iCarly (CC)	That's-Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	555	545	50 TEL	Johnny Test	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN (CC)	Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Little Bear	Toopy	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Billy Connolly: Journey to the		Mekong: Soul of a River (N)		La Fille du Régiment (1996, Comedy) Ewa Podles. Premiere. (CC)				
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Due South "Starman" (CC)		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	According-Jim
	570	580	24 MM	Degrassi	Degrassi	MuchOnDemand (CC)		Pimp My Ride	My Own	Love Court	My Date	Video on Trial
	600	564	29 H&G	House Hunt	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Agent-Agent	Real Estate	Property	Unsellables	House
	615	520	31 A&E	Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	(:01) Dog the Bounty Hunter		(:01) Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter
	628	584	32 SPKE	1,000-Lie	MANswers	Players	Blue Mountain	1,000-Lie	Ways to Die	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Mysteries
	521	560	34 TLC	World's Strongest Toddler		Your Kid Ate What? (CC)		Child Frozen in Time (CC)		World's Strongest Toddler		Tiny-Kenadie
	616	522	39 SHO	Relic Hunter (CC)		Unthinkable (2007, Suspense) Michelle Forbes. (CC)				HawthoRNe "Mother's Day"		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	White Collar "Bottlenecked"		Law & Order "Aftershock"		Without a Trace "Moving On"		White Collar "Bottlenecked"		Red Shoe
	601	562	41 SLC	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada	What	Real Housewives-Atlanta		Real Housewives, Orange		Runway
	520	505	42 DIS	Solving History-Olly Steeds		Daily Planet (CC)		Solving History-Olly Steeds		The Colony "Recon Mission"		Man vs. Wild
	522	506	44 HIS	Ice Pilots NWT (CC)		Nostradamus Effect (N)		Ice Road Truckers (CC)		Ice Pilots NWT (CC)		Re-Inventors
	627	528	45 SPC	Supernatural (CC)		InnerSpace	Stargate SG-1 "The Warrior"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)	
	294	650	47 TBS	House/Payne	House/Payne	Lopez Tonight (N)		Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	Rescue Ink "In Your Face"		Hoarders "Judi and Gail"		Hoarders "Patty; Bill" (CC)		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Spoiled
	603	561	52 FN	Chopped "In a Pinch" (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Chopped "In a Pinch" (CC)		Iron Chef Am.
	-	-	53 AMC	Enter-Dragon	Fight Club ★★★ (1999, Suspense) Brad Pitt, Edward Norton, Helena Bonham Carter. (CC)						The Terminator ★★★ (1984)	
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Lucky Louie	Hot Box	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:35) The Point (2006) (CC)		The Ugly Truth ★ (2009) Katherine Heigl. (CC)		(:40) The Killing Gene (2007) Stellan Skarsgard. (CC)				
	581	566	101 MTV	The Real World (N) (CC)		MTV Live	Sex News	16 and Pregnant "Valerie"		The Real World (CC)		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Unscripted	Twist of Faith	Poltergeist: The Legacy		The Black Stallion Returns ★★ (1983) Kelly Reno, Teri Garr.				Paid Program
	-	-	106 MUL	My Queen	Immortal	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical	Temas	Patrol World

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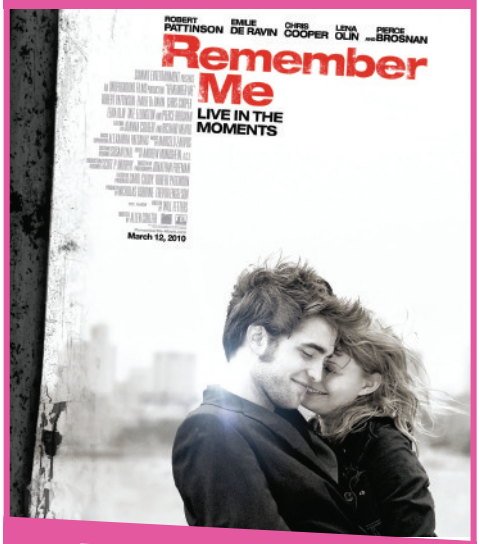

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Phillips makes up mind, then changes it

The 18-year marriage between Billy Baldwin, left, and Chynna Phillips almost came to an end last week when Phillips filed divorce papers, but within days, she changed her mind and withdrew the filing, popeater.ca reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

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Osbourne says she lost weight herself

AND ALL THE DANCING WITH THE STARS TRANING DIDN'T HURT EITHER Kelly Osbourne is thrilled with her new svelte figure, but she's not so thrilled with critics suggesting she got it the easy way.

"The rumours are ridiculous. They send out the wrong message because I've shaped up working hard for months — it wasn't a quick fix," she writes in her column in Closer magazine. "Someone even said I've had a gastric bypass! I have 100 per cent not had any of that. I've lost weight from my face, and that's why it looks different."

And the former reality star is quite candid about why she hasn't gone under the knife. "I can say with confidence that the only time I've been in a plastic surgeon's office was with my mum, and though I wouldn't rule it out when I'm older, right now I couldn't even do it if I wanted because of my past addictions — I couldn't take the medication they put you on."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Murphy's will leaves her hubby nothing: Report

BRITTANY WAS OBVIOUSLY A MAMA'S GIRL Brittany Murphy — who died after a battle with pneumonia Dec. 20 at age 30 — didn't leave a dime to husband Simon Monjack, usmagazine.com reports. She left her entire estate to her mother, Sharon, according to TMZ.com.

The site reports that years before Murphy wed Monjack in 2007, she handwrote a will leaving her mother everything. The will was stored in her manager's safe.

Monjack wasn't surprised he was left out. He tells TMZ that before they wed, the actress' formal will, along with a trust, was drafted.

At his request, the will specifically stated, "I am married to Simon Monjack who I have intentionally left out of this will," he said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Gaga says she is celibate

MAYBE THE JONAS BROTHERS CAN GIVE HER A PROMISE RING? Lady Gaga has made an art form of skimpy outfits, but at the moment it's all for show. The pop star says she is currently single and celibate, people.com reports.

"I haven't got time to spend on the road to get to know anyone," she told reporters this week at MAC cosmetics' Viva Glam event in London, reports the U.K.'s Mirror.

"Even Lady Gaga can be celibate. You don't have to have sex to be loved." The singer, 23, who arrived at the event in a sexy see-through black lace dress, may be abstaining — but that doesn't preclude her from offering opinions about what goes on in the bedroom.

"Sex should be fun, beautiful and colorful, but women get the short end of the stick," she says. "We're just receivers. We can't talk about sex, we can't sing about sex."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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VIRGINIA MADSEN is having some fashion issues, **LINDSAY LOHAN** an can't make it through an Emilio Estevez movie, **KARL LAGERFELD** gets serious about not being serious, and **JOHN MAYER** knows his limits.

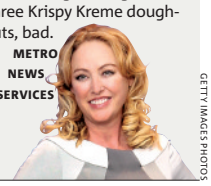
@madlyv Fitting for my Oscar gown! But where can I hide my iPhone?

@lindsaylohan watching Young Guns... my eyes are about to close, they feel heavy, probably coz i'm tired! night night

@Karl_Lagerfeld Fashion does not have to prove that it is serious. It is the proof that intelligent frivolity can be something creative and positive.

@johncmayer Two Krispy Kreme doughnuts, good. Three Krispy Kreme doughnuts, bad.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

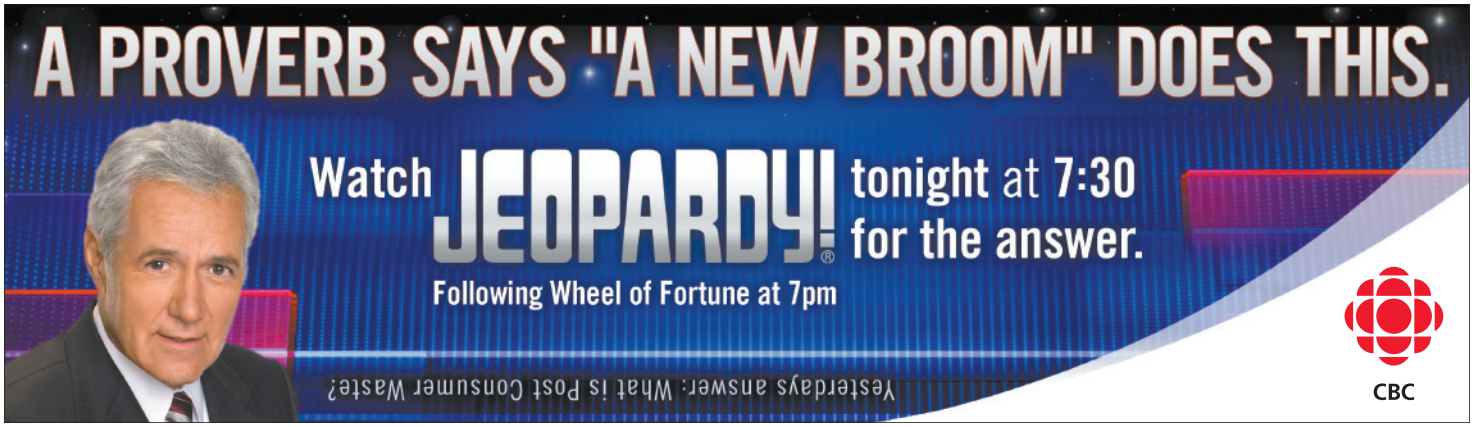


GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Simpson blasts Mayer on Oprah

SOBER TALK Jessica Simpson strikes back at John Mayer over his unchivalrous comments about her in his recent Playboy interview. "I don't want people to know how I am in bed," Simpson tells Oprah Winfrey during a visit to her talk show airing in today, according to Us Weekly. Simpson and Winfrey also discuss how the singer is affected by negative comments about her weight.

METRO WORLD NEWS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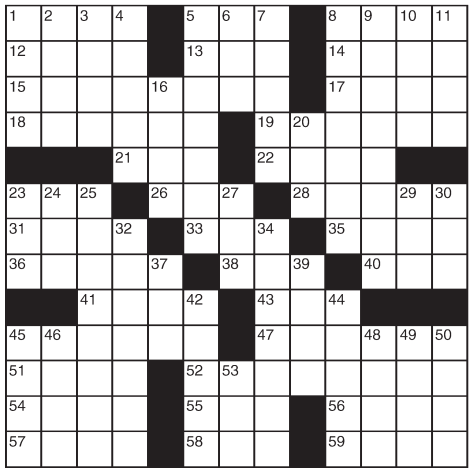
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Caspian feeder
5 Couric's network
8 Close
12 One's performance
13 Coloration
14 Macadamize
15 Silicon Valley school
17 Scope
18 Find a new owner
19 Blood lines?
21 "Norma —"
22 Soft ball
23 Pump up the volume
26 Underwear with underwire
28 Haley book
31 Fisherman's supply
33 Duchamp contemporary
35 Legal document
36 Tiramisu topper
38 Navigation aid
40 Actress Susan
41 Northern Iraqi
43 Gun lobby org.
45 Imprisoned
47 Black-eyed legume
51 Hoodlum
52 Joan, Michael or Cindy
54 Traditional tales
55 Diving bird
56 Craving
57 Race place, for short
58 Shelter
59 Ponce de —

DOWN

1 Cold War initials
2 Memory method
3 "Woe is me!"
4 Hermit
5 Gastrointestinal illness
6 Prickly seedcase
7 Auto style
8 Who killed Cock Robin?
9 Connecticut city
10 Eye layer
11 4:00 get-togethers
16 "The Biggest Loser" target
20 "— the fields we go"
23 Basic learning
24 Chinese chairman
25 Mary of silents
27 Branch
29 Dead heat
30 Pigs' digs
32 U.S. Open, e.g.
34 Flapjack
37 Exist
39 Ship's front
42 Transfer
44 Terrible
45 Wrinkly citrus
46 Midday
48 Sweat opening
49 Therefore
50 Mideast gulf
53 Regret

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	5		6	7	1		4	
8								6
		6				5		
3	4		9		6		5	1
				2				
5	9		4		7		6	3
		1				8		
4								9
	7		1	6	8		2	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

7	8	6	5	4	9	2	3	1
5	2	1	7	3	6	4	9	8
3	4	9	1	8	2	7	5	6
2	9	5	3	6	8	1	7	4
8	3	7	4	2	1	5	6	9
1	6	4	9	5	7	3	8	2
9	1	8	2	7	5	6	4	3
4	7	2	6	9	3	8	1	5
6	5	3	8	1	4	9	2	7

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Garlic Seafood Pasta

INGREDIENTS:

14 oz (400 g) linguine
2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
3 garlic cloves, crushed
4 tbsp (60 mL) dry white wine
1/2 lb (250 g) cherry tomatoes, quartered
2 packs frozen cooked seafood mix
3 tbsp (45 mL) ricotta cheese
1 oz (30 g) fresh flat-leaf parsley, roughly chopped

METHOD:

1. Cook linguine according to pack instructions, until al dente.

2. While pasta is cooking, heat oil in frying pan. Add garlic, then stir in wine. Simmer 1 minute; stir in tomatoes. Add seafood and return to simmer. Cook, stirring occasionally, 4 minutes, or until tomatoes have started to soften and seafood is thoroughly heated. Stir in ricotta cheese, heat gently and season to taste.

3. Drain pasta and turn into warmed serving bowl. Spoon sauce over pasta. Add parsley and gently toss until thoroughly combined. Serve immediately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Make the most of what you possess, emotionally and materially. It may seem less than what others are enjoying but it is more than enough for your needs.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
The last few days have been hectic. Fortunately, today's Mercury-Saturn aspect will help you cut your workload down to manageable proportions.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Some things take longer than others to get going, so don't worry if you seem to be getting nowhere. You are building the foundations for future success.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Life may seem a bit dull at the moment but don't let that fool you. There is a lot going on behind the scenes and it won't be long before you are busy.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
For some reason you seem determined to force a confrontation, but that's the last thing you should be doing. Keep a low profile and stay out of harm's way.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Just because a friend or work colleague isn't saying much at the moment does not mean they no longer like you. It's no big deal.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Get going on that you have a huge backlog of chores that need to be dealt with. Start on them today and don't stop until you have finished.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
It does not matter why certain things have happened. What matters is that you accept them and make the best of them. Keep your attitude positive.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You want everything to be in its proper place and you will work hard to make sure there are no loose ends or bits and pieces you might accidentally trip over.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Spell everything out in plain and simple language today. The people you are going to be dealing with are simply incapable of understanding big concepts.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Don't give too much away. That applies to money, of course, but it also applies to what you tell other people about your plans for the future.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Forget about the past and live for the moment. Worrying about "what might have been' is sure to hold you back. It's what you do next that matters.

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skilled immigrant infocentre
Vancouver Public Library Central Library, Level 4
350 West Georgia Street
Phone: 604-331-3624
Web: skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca
Employment information for career decisions
A free service for immigrants to British Columbia
Vancouver Public Library · British Columbia The Best Place on Earth · Canada
Funded by the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition Program

Introducing 16 apps that need no introduction.

Nike Master Control
Free • Looking to improve your soccer skills this year? This elite Nike training app features instructional videos from FC Barcelona coaches. Get tips on ball control, see drills the pros use and even learn some of their signature moves.

Maclean's
Free • The only national news magazine now fits in your pocket. Read selected articles, opinions and blogs, and get the Maclean's perspective on all the issues facing the country.

CBC Hockey
Free • The home of hockey brings you live box scores for the whole NHL schedule, as well as standings and stats for every team and player. Now you can always be on top of your game.

Avis
Free • Get the car you want, when you want it from the car rental service that "tries harder." Easily check real-time availability, make on-the-fly reservations and enjoy access to special rates.

Disney
Free • The largest and most loved entertainment company in the world brings you games, videos, a radio station and more. You can even create a photo of yourself with favourite characters from the Disney movies.

Air Canada
Free • The country's largest airline, at your fingertips. Receive notifications about any changes to your flight, check in and choose your seats – all before you get to the airport.

NFB Films
Free • The National Film Board brings you hundreds of movies – for free. Watch award-winning animations and documentaries right now, or store on your iPhone and view off-line.

LEGO
Free • Enjoy the iconic building toy right on your iPhone. Take a picture, tap the screen and see the image transform itself into Lego bricks before your eyes. Save to your photo library or send to friends and relatives.

The North Face
Free • Before you hit the slopes, pocket this comprehensive resort guide from The North Face. Get trail maps, forecasts, check current snow conditions – from St. Anton to Zermatt.

L'Oréal Paris
Free • Want to know what colours suit your skin tone, or how to apply the perfect lipstick? It's all here on your iPhone. Just tap for make-up tips, skincare information and video demonstrations.

eBay
Free • Put the world's top online marketplace on your iPhone. Search for new stuff and place that last-minute bid even when you're nowhere near your computer.

CBC Radio
Free • Listen to CBC Radio on your iPhone. Tap into 19 live streams and over 60 popular programs on-demand. Browse archived episodes and create a favourites list for quick access to the programs you love.

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